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CIA Had Oswald On Tape

From Inquirer Wire Services

WASHINGTON — Two telephone calls allegedly involving Lee Harvey Oswald and the Soviet and Cuban embassies in Mexico were tape-recorded by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) less than two months before the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, according to informed sources.

The Senate Intelligence Committee is studying the reports carefully, a spokesman said yesterday. He declined to elaborate on the reports. Sen. Edward Kennedy (D., Mass.), the late president's brother, is scheduled to testify before the committee today.

The announced purpose for the Kennedy testimony was to further investigate plots against Cuban Premier Fidel Castro and Dominican Republic dictator Rafael Trujillo under the Kennedy administration.

The sources said the two conversations were recorded Sept. 27 and 28, 1963, in the course of the CIA's routine monitoring of phone calls to and from the Soviet and Cuban embassies in Mexico City.

Oswald, who was identified by the Warren commission as the sole killer of Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963, was in Mexico City trying to obtain a visa to travel to the Soviet Union via Cuba.

A report in the New York Times said that the CIA informed the FBI on Oct. 10, 1963, about the monitored conversations.

There was no evidence that the FBI pursued the tips despite the fact that it was investigating Oswald for pro-Castro activities.

It has not been determined whether the commission discussed the CIA tapes. An FBI memo it received states, however, that "another U. S. government agency is in possession of the following information" and proceeds to detail, without naming the source, the content of the two conversations relating to Oswald.

According to that memo, the Sept. 27 conversation was between officials of the Cuban and Soviet embassies involving Oswald's visa request.

The Sept. 28 conversation was similar except that Oswald himself, who was then in the Cuban embassy, got on the telephone and spoke in broken Russian to the Soviet official.